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**Thursday**  
DECEMBER 29, 2016

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A Chicago Tribune  
publication

# *mending* **'FENCES'**

**NEWCOMER JOVAN ADEPO JOINS A SET OF  
BROADWAY VETS IN DENZEL WASHINGTON'S  
STAGE-TO-SCREEN ADAPTATION OF 'FENCES' 6-7**

**Cops to don body cams early 3   WonFun spices things up 8   Comedy & concerts to see 10**



BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYECCHICAGO.COM » GET MORE SPONTANEOUS EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECCHICAGO.COM



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# WATCHING OUT FOR YOU

OFFICIALS SAY CPD WILL IMPLEMENT BODY CAMERAS CITYWIDE A YEAR EARLY

By William Lee | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

**A**mid city budget woes, continued mistrust of police in minority communities and a still-pending federal investigation into police practices, Chicago police announced a plan to equip patrol officers with body cameras in every police district a year earlier than initially planned. The move means that by the end of 2017, the chest-mounted devices will become a new watchful eye over Chicago police officers and those they encounter.

Just months after police first revealed plans to expand a 2015 body camera pilot program into all 22 police districts by the end of 2018, City Hall and the Police Department announced on Wednesday an accelerated plan to outfit thousands of patrol officers with the new AXON II cameras and training by late 2017.

"The citywide use of body worn cameras within the Chicago Police Department will provide a greater sense of self-awareness to both officers and the individuals that they interact with," police Superintendent Eddie Johnson said in a release announcing the change.

After starting with the pilot program in the Shakespeare District on the Northwest Side, about 2,000 cameras are now in use in seven police districts. Officials didn't have a precise timetable for when the cameras would hit the streets in the remaining 15 districts.

Use of the cameras ramped up after the public outcry over the release of 2014 squad car video showing Officer Jason Van Dyke shooting Laquan McDonald 16 times as the teenager, who was holding a knife, was walking away.

"Body cameras, while not a panacea, are a win-win for officers and the public," Mayor Emanuel said in the same announcement. "They provide a firsthand look at the dangerous situations officers encounter on a daily basis, and improve transparency while building trust."

In recent months, the mayor made the use of body cameras and the hiring of hundreds of new officers the cornerstone of a new public safety strategy to lower skyrocketing shootings and homicides and restore public trust in law enforcement that had been shaken by the deadly police shootings of McDonald and 18-year-old Paul O'Neal.

The move comes as the U.S. Department of Justice continues examining police policies and procedures in the wake of the 2015 release of the McDonald video.

Body cameras have been championed by community activists and civil libertarians as a way of monitoring possible police misconduct, while critics say it could violate the privacy of working police officers. But they aren't foolproof. Police were criticized in late July when a body camera worn by a Chicago officer who fa-

tally shot O'Neal was not operating—and didn't capture the pivotal moments of the foot chase and shooting behind a South Shore home. An autopsy determined O'Neal, who was unarmed, died from a gunshot wound to the back.

Town Hall District Commander Marc Buslik, who oversaw the implementation of the body cameras while working in the Shakespeare District, suggested that the officer who shot O'Neal may have been still getting used to the device as his district had only begun using body cameras when the shooting occurred. He added that the department adopted body camera policies backed by the federal officials.

"Our policies were originally based on best practices of the Justice Department," said Buslik, who had also acted as the department's liaison with the Justice Department during its investigation. "We knew what they were likely to be looking for in terms of policy. We're very comfortable with our policy, and any other commentary from the DOJ will be favorable."

After the announcement of the body camera expansion, Buslik and officers at the Town Hall District in Lakeview demonstrated how the flip-phone-size camera can be clipped onto an officer's bulletproof vest and switched on to record video and audio.

Officers using the body cams will turn on the cameras on at the start of every tour and activate them "only" as they encounter

citizens, Buslik said. At the end of each shift, footage of the officers' cameras will be downloaded into a hard drive.


Officials with the local Fraternal Order of Police, which represents the department's rank-and-file, did not respond to a request for comment.

The tab for the cameras was expected to be around \$8 million. The city set aside some money in the 2017 budget for expansion of the body camera program, but it will also tap into unused dollars in a property tax rebate program, a combination of the department's operating budget and grants. Last year, Gov. Rauner signed into law a comprehensive body camera bill that set statewide standards for use of the cameras, expanded police officer training and requires an independent investigation of all officer-involved deaths. The cost of body cameras and new training is covered by a \$5 extra fee on criminal and traffic offenses that result in a guilty plea or conviction.

Buslik said benefits of the body cameras far outweighed the negatives, saying it could provide a fuller picture than short clips of supposed police misconduct posted on social media.

"I think any of those concerns is offset by the fact that having our own recording of an incident provides a much better, much fuller description of what took place than a 40-second clip on YouTube," the commander said.





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# threesome

## 3 PERSPECTIVES ON ONE RELATIONSHIP QUESTION

Welcome to "Threesome." Each week, we'll take a look at a relationship question from the public and have three panelists give their insights. Have a question to ask? Shoot it over to us on Twitter at [@redeyechicago](https://twitter.com/redeyechicago) or on our Facebook page. If it's a little more private, feel free to email it to [redeye@redeyechicago.com](mailto:redeye@redeyechicago.com) with the word "Threesome" in the subject line.

Friend asks me what my standards would be in a girl who I could possibly date. Three things: no kids, never been married and has to be in "decent" shape. I meet all three of these. Friend thinks those are unrealistic, and I think they are realistic. Thoughts? —Question via Reddit, edited for length



**Michelle Lopez**  
Married, 32

» RedEye digital editor  
» @michelleglopez

Whether your friend is right or not doesn't matter. Your standards for who you want to date are really your business and choice. However, I'd be remiss if I didn't point out that you may be missing out by having such rigid expectations. I'm getting the vibe you are pretty set on what you're into and not into, so there's probably no changing your mind.

But if you find yourself still alone after dating with these strict standards that you've deemed non-negotiable, perhaps you might try to step outside of your comfort zone and see who else is out there. You may be surprised and stumble upon a meaningful relationship with someone (GASP—a single mom?!) whom you would have easily written off before. That's what dating is for, right? It becomes a whole new world once you stop judging books by their covers.



**Jake Newton**  
In a relationship, 24

» RedEye designer  
» @jnewt

The short answer is yes, those are realistic ... but that doesn't mean you can (or should) say it out loud. While I could preach the Gospel of "Shallow Hal" and say that it's what's on the inside that matters most, that's not always true. If those things are what matter to you, then you should be honest with yourself and your friends. But your narrow

way of thinking could be keeping you from falling for that perfect person. You should never write off someone if they aren't an exact match to the partner you've been imagining. It's not unreasonable to have stipulations for potential partners, just maybe don't be such a dick about it. As a (female) friend of mine in the dating world said recently, "If you're not attracted to girls with a little extra, I guess it's best to get it out there and move on."



**Shelby Lynn Bostedt**  
Single, 23

» RedEye digital content coordinator  
» @shelbielbostedt

I'm a firm believer that even with a certain set of standards, there's someone for everyone, if you're open to meeting them. You're going to be attracted to who you're attracted to, so whether or not these standards are realistic is beside the point since you won't be able to change your mind about what you want anyway. But closing yourself off to

entire groups of people based on a certain set of criteria might be inhibiting your own happiness. Depending on your age, these three things don't seem entirely unattainable, though the older you get, the harder it will be to find someone who hasn't either been married or had children. And also, in the interest of offering honest advice, the "decent" shape comment makes you seem a bit douchey, but, like I said, you're going to be attracted to who you're attracted to.



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Dwyane Wade

# #LETSREST

EVEN D-WADE'S LEARNING TO EMBRACE A LIGHTER REGULAR-SEASON LOAD

By K.C. Johnson | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

**S**hortly after he read Aaron Brooks' cross-court pass, turned on his afterburners to track down his deflection and finished the pretty play with a game-clinching dunk, Dwyane Wade took to social media to poke fun at himself.

"When you don't get as high as you use to on your dunks. It's what you do after the dunk that makes it look better. Haha. Great team win tonite. #letsbuild"

Then Wade posted a photo of him hanging on the rim, a look of celebration and fierceness etched on his face as he sealed the Bulls' 90-85 victory over Indiana on Monday.

If one let the mind wander, it was easy to think of the "Flash"-era Wade. You remember that guy: He dunked and drove his way to a league-leading 30.2 points per game in 2008-09 and never averaged less than 24 from 2004-10.

But Wade knows. He understands Father

Time remains undefeated. And the calendar flips to his 35th birthday next month.

That calendar also includes the month of April. And that's when Wade knows he needs to be at his best—if the Bulls make the playoffs.

"I know some nights I'm going to have to push it, but we've done a good job of not overplaying me throughout," Wade said. "Because there are certain moments where I just don't need to be out there."

"If I'm running up and down the court for five or six minutes just corner to corner, I'm OK. We can have Doug [McDermott] or one of them come in and do that. I want my minutes to be meaningful. It's just been constant communication with Coach [Fred Hoiberg] all year."

That communication led to Wade playing the entire fourth quarter Monday for the first time this season. He not only delivered the game-clinching steal and dunk, but also scored on a vintage baseline jumper over Paul George with 2 minutes, 29 seconds left as part

## WITH OR WITHOUT HIM

How the Bulls have fared with and without Dwyane Wade this season (stats through Wednesday afternoon).

	RECORD	POINTS SCORED	POINTS ALLOWED
With	14-15	100.7	99.2
Without	1-1	100.0	108.5

of his game-high 21 points.

"That's just an in-game thing," Wade said of playing the entire quarter. "I love Coach. He listens to me. He looked at me and I was like, 'No.' It worked out well. I've been trying to watch my minutes as they crept up earlier in the season."

At his introductory news conference in July, Wade acknowledged he didn't embrace Heat coach Erik Spoelstra's idea to drop his regular-season playing time to the 30-minute range in 2014-15. Wade came on board last season, playing a career-low 30.5 minutes but appearing in 74 games, his most since 2010-11.

He then upped his playing time to 33.8 min-

utes per game in a turn-back-the-clock performance over 14 postseason games for the Heat.

"My body felt great," Wade said of last April. "I felt during the season I could've played more, but it's a long season. And Coach did a good job last year maintaining it for me because as a player, you want to be out there. I understand that now, and that's why I've been maintaining myself. It's a long season ahead of us."

Monday marked the fifth set of back-to-back games Wade has completed. He has rested in the second game twice and is averaging 30.8 minutes.

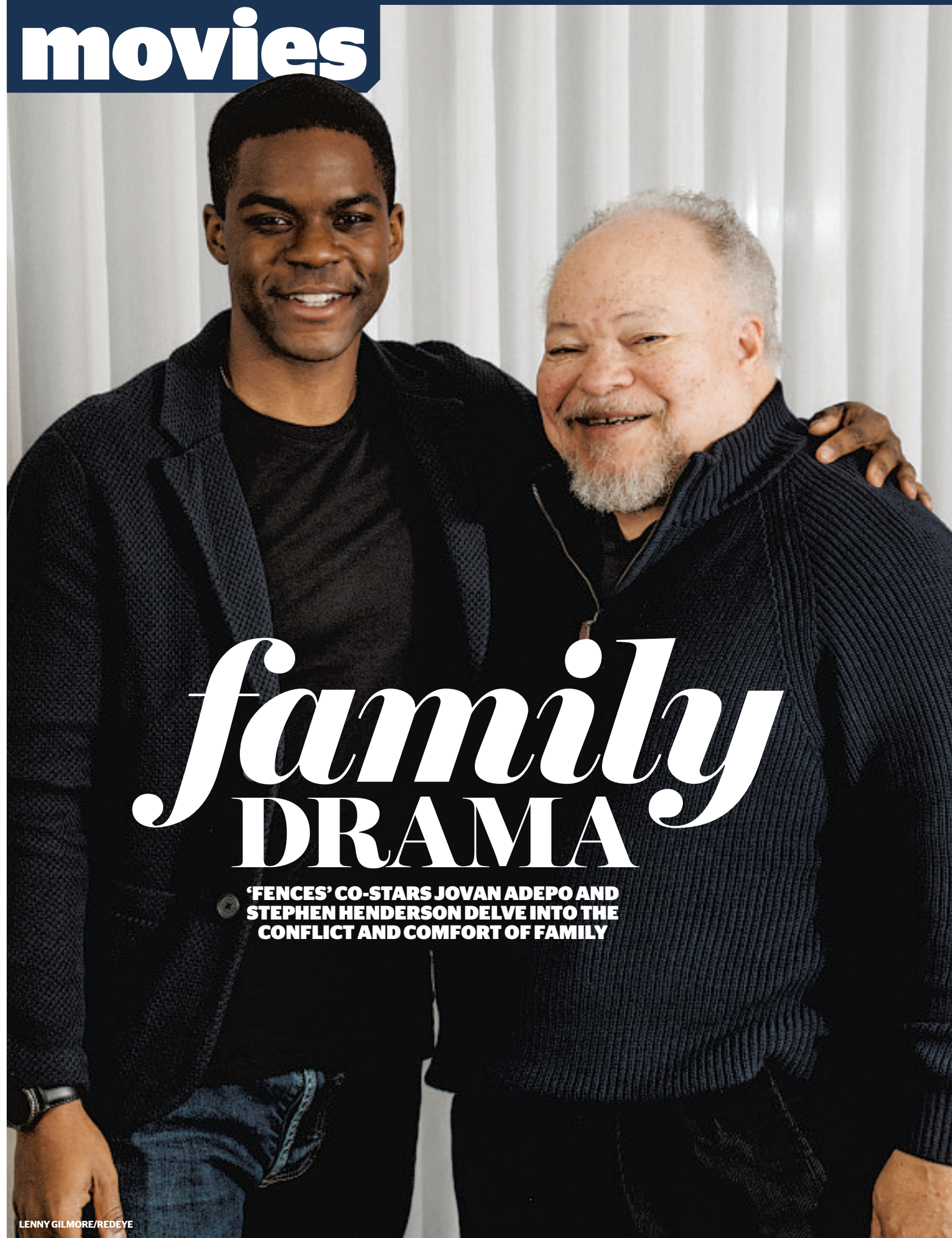
As for that self-maintenance, Wade woke up Monday morning and surprised his wife.

"It's funny," he said. "I woke up and did my own treatment on myself. My wife was laughing at me."

By day's end, Wade was laughing at himself on social media. In between those moments were others that helped the Bulls win a critical game.



# movies



## family DRAMA

**'FENCES' CO-STARS JOVAN ADEPO AND STEPHEN HENDERSON DELVE INTO THE CONFLICT AND COMFORT OF FAMILY**

LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE



Jovan Adepo and Denzel Washington in 'Fences'

By Lauren Chval | REDEYE

**A**daptations often lose something in the process—how often have you heard a friend complain that the movie wasn't as good as the book? When taking a play to a film, plenty could be lost: the chemistry, the urgency, the opportunity for actors to sink deeper into their characters night after night. But to hear actor Stephen Henderson tell it, Denzel Washington's adaptation of August Wilson's 1983 play "Fences" only gained intimacy.

"The actors are more freed to work off each other and not have to concern themselves with the back row—that's a theaterism—so that frees them to really go to that level of truth," Henderson said. "And the audience is, in a way, closer to it all because of the brilliant editing [of] Denzel and his editor."

Henderson knows what he's talking about. His portrayal of Bono, friend and co-worker to Washington's Troy, is actually a reprisal. In fact, nearly all the cast members of "Fences" (including Washington and Viola Davis) are returning to roles they had in a 2010 Broadway revival of the play.

"Fences" is set in 1950s Pittsburgh, where middle-aged waste collector Troy Maxson struggles to accept the hand life dealt him and the feeling that he's been stuck in one place for a very long time. His bitterness causes conflict and resentment between him and his wife, Rose (Davis), and his son Cory (Jovan Adepo). Troy doesn't realize he's repeating patterns that made his life challenging in the first place.

It's rich, complex material—a story that almost certainly would have been adapted before now if it weren't for Wilson's making it clear he wanted an African-American director to be the one who brought it to the big screen.

"One of the things I loved that I heard Den-

zel say is that Steven Spielberg could have directed 'Goodfellas' and Martin Scorsese could have directed 'Schindler's List,' but what it meant to have Spielberg's 'Schindler's List' and Scorsese's 'Goodfellas,'" Henderson said. "And that's where August was about having an African-American director for 'Fences.'"

"It's not that a white man couldn't do it. But there was something that a certain black director—not any—but [a] certain [black man] could bring to it who had a cultural literacy and who really did understand the culture," he continues. "What the director brings to it has to do with their own cultural literacy and how they felt about their mother's kitchen."

Aside from the fact that he and his actors had played their characters for months back in

2010, Washington did a lot to stay true to the material. His direction is full of long takes, letting Wilson's dialogue speak for itself. What's more, he filmed the entire script (penned by Wilson before his death in 2005) in sequence, which is highly unusual for a Hollywood film but true to the spirit of a theatrical production.

The newcomer among the veterans was Adepo, who makes his feature film debut as Troy's son Cory. He has described the experience of joining the cast like being the new kid at school. When you're acting in your first movie (with Denzel Washington, no less), it can be intimidating that everyone else already knows each other.

Despite the fact that Adepo never played Cory onstage (he said it would have been interesting to "explore the character much deeper"), he wasn't without experiences to channel into his part, particularly the father-son clashes that run throughout the film. When Adepo didn't make the football team on his first tryout in college, his own father pushed

him to consider other things.

"But I expressed to him how much I wanted to play and how much it meant to me, and once I expressed that to him with the level

of passion that I did, that's what really turned him. I can even say that for when I decided to pursue acting because he didn't see that at all," Adepo said. "A man like that, you have to show him that you can do it and you're serious about it. [Talk] is not enough. You've got to go out there and prove it. But I appreciate that too because what that did is push me."

Of course, behind every clashing son and father, there's usually a mother doing her best to make peace from both sides. That's Davis' role as Rose, constantly trying to bridge the gap between her warring husband and son. As much as "Fences" is a story about fathers and sons, it's also about mothers and sons.

"You're always hoping for Mom to come through," Adepo laughed. "Like, 'Dad's going off today. Talk to the man. Talk some sense into him.' And she's like, 'I'll talk to him, give him some time.' My mom has done that plenty of times for me. Totally appreciate her for that."

That bond between a mother and son—the quiet, soothing talk after a fight between men—is something Adepo thinks separates Cory from his father.

"I think Cory's a bit more sensitive," he said. "He's more in touch with expressing love in the traditional way. I think he was given the right type of love from Rose. I wonder what type of relationship Troy even had with his mother. I know that it wasn't a very extensive one but even still, if he was able to remember anything about her. I'm wondering what could have been different."

Troy is both protagonist and antagonist of "Fences"—we're never able to put him in a box. Adepo pointed out that he's a multidimensional person, as we all are, and Henderson agreed.

"We try to do that for stories—we try to say, OK, here's the message, here's the theme, here's the good people and the bad. Life is not nearly like that," Henderson said.

Before filming began, when the cast was still rehearsing, Adepo recalled that he and Henderson spent a lot of time talking about the story and the "lyrical" quality of Wilson's dialogue. To nail that musical feel, Henderson said you have to understand the blues.

"Blues is life, you know?" he said, prompting a smile of recognition from Adepo. "An appreciation for the depth of life and the fact that hard times strengthen you and make you ready—blues, a lot of times, is about the loss of love. And [Fences] certainly does have love in it. There's plenty of love in this. Every character in this story loves each other and consequently is capable of devastating the other."

And devastate each other they do. As true as Washington keeps "Fences" to the play, Henderson is right that the pain each actor registers on his or her face throughout the film wouldn't connect within a theater. But in a film, it's impossible not to feel.

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## Family is tough



**Lauren Chval**  
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Depending on your family's dynamic, "Fences" could be either a great or a terrible movie to see during the holidays. Is there unbearable tension between Dad and one of his off-spring? Unless it's the kind of tension that can be resolved with a post-movie chat and a hug, maybe skip

seeing this one with people related to you.

### What happens?

In 1950s Pittsburgh, Troy Maxson (Denzel Washington) works as a garbage man to provide for his family. He's a man governed by responsibility, committed to duty before love, and bitter about the hardships life dealt him. Bearing the brunt of his black-and-white outlook is his wife, Rose (Viola Davis), and younger son, Cory (Jovan Adepo). As Troy struggles to accept the man he has become, he doesn't seem to realize his actions are negatively affecting those he loves most.

### What's good?

Unsurprisingly, the cast is magnificent. Every major character, with the exception of Adepo, reprises their role from a 2010 Broadway revival of August Wilson's 1983 play, on which the film is based. Wilson penned the screenplay before he died in 2005, and all of the actors inhabit their characters like extensions of themselves. Davis is particularly forceful; her performance hits like a slap across the face. Washington gives a gifted delivery of Wilson's lyrical dialogue, and as director, he clearly takes care to preserve the original themes and feel of the play. It's hard to capture the intricate messiness of family, but "Fences" proves up to the task.

### What's bad?

As admirable as Washington's dedication to his source material is, it's hard to deny that "Fences" still feels like a play. Long swaths of dialogue, while impeccably delivered, go on forever. Certain beats that would be at home on the stage come on too strong for film. The jump from play to movie certainly adds intimacy, but "Fences" misses an opportunity to do more.

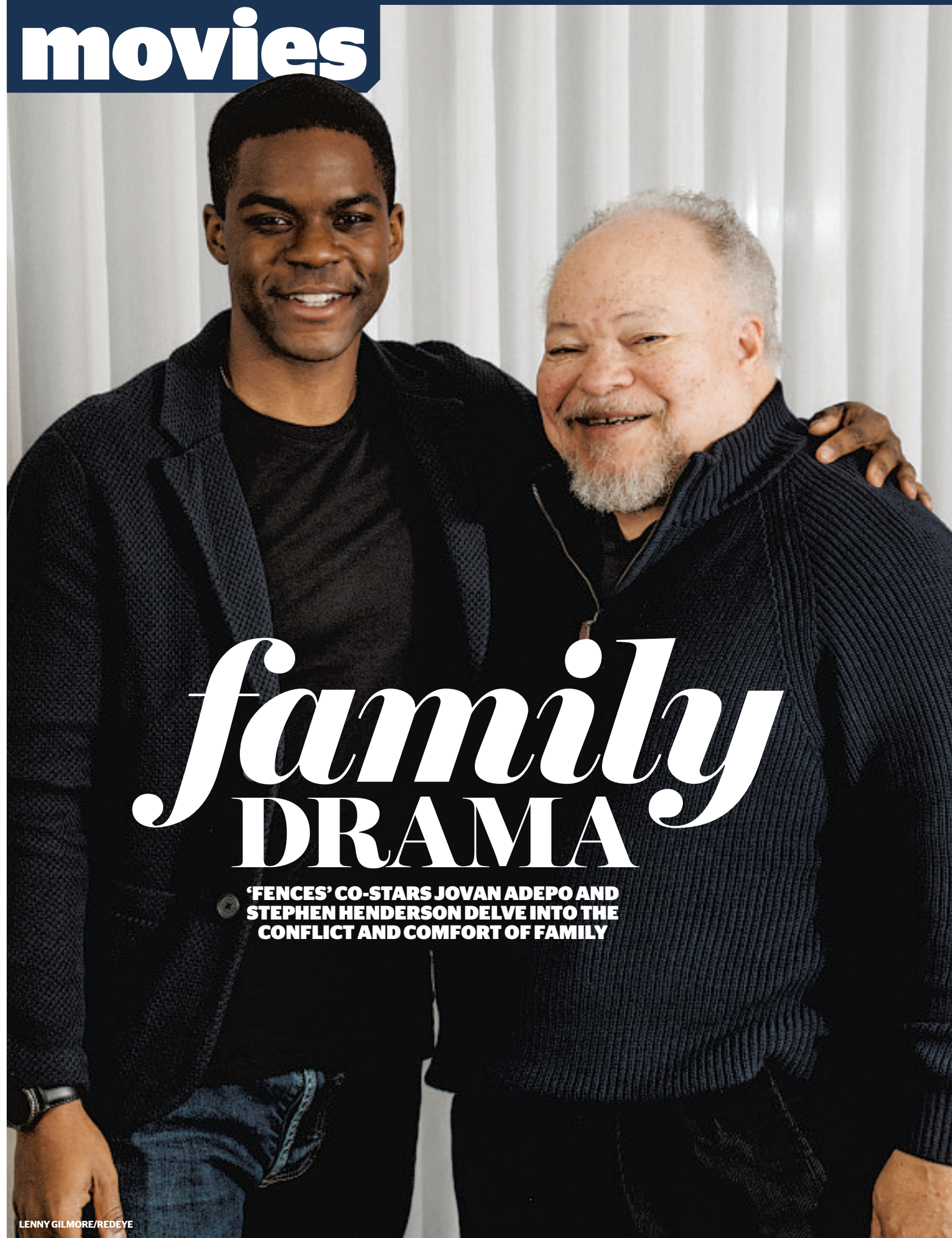
### Final verdict

A profound and beautifully acted story that needed to adapt a little more to truly become an adaptation.





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Despite the fact that Adepo never played Cory onstage (he said it would have been interesting to "explore the character much deeper"), he wasn't without experiences to channel into his part, particularly the father-son clashes that run throughout the film. When Adepo didn't make the football team on his first tryout in college, his own father pushed

him to consider other things. "But I expressed to him how much I wanted to play and how much it meant to me, and once I expressed that to him with the level

of passion that I did, that's what really turned him. I can even say that for when I decided to pursue acting because he didn't see that at all," Adepo said. "A man like that, you have to show him that you can do it and you're serious about it. [Talk] is not enough. You've got to go out there and prove it. But I appreciate that too because what that did is push me."

Of course, behind every clashing son and father, there's usually a mother doing her best to make peace from both sides. That's Davis' role as Rose, constantly trying to bridge the gap between her warring husband and son. As much as "Fences" is a story about fathers and sons, it's also about mothers and sons.

"You're always hoping for Mom to come through," Adepo laughed. "Like, 'Dad's going off today. Talk to the man. Talk some sense into him.' And she's like, 'I'll talk to him, give him some time.' My mom has done that plenty of times for me. Totally appreciate her for that."

That bond between a mother and son—the quiet, soothing talk after a fight between men—is something Adepo thinks separates Cory from his father.

"I think Cory's a bit more sensitive," he said. "He's more in touch with expressing love in the traditional way. I think he was given the right type of love from Rose. I wonder what type of relationship Troy even had with his mother. I know that it wasn't a very extensive one but even still, if he was able to remember anything about her. I'm wondering what could have been different."

Troy is both protagonist and antagonist of "Fences"—we're never able to put him in a box. Adepo pointed out that he's a multidimensional person, as we all are, and Henderson agreed.

"We try to do that for stories—we try to say, OK, here's the message, here's the theme, here's the good people and the bad. Life is not nearly like that," Henderson said.

Before filming began, when the cast was still rehearsing, Adepo recalled that he and Henderson spent a lot of time talking about the story and the "lyrical" quality of Wilson's dialogue. To nail that musical feel, Henderson said you have to understand the blues.

"Blues is life, you know?" he said, prompting a smile of recognition from Adepo. "An appreciation for the depth of life and the fact that hard times strengthen you and make you ready—blues, a lot of times, is about the loss of love. And [Fences] certainly does have love in it. There's plenty of love in this. Every character in this story loves each other and consequently is capable of devastating the other."

And devastate each other they do. As true as Washington keeps "Fences" to the play, Henderson is right that the pain each actor registers on his or her face throughout the film wouldn't connect within a theater. But in a film, it's impossible not to feel.

@LCHVAL | LAURENCHVAL@REDEYETCHICAGO.COM

## Family is tough



**Lauren Chval**  
» laurenchval@redeyechicago.com  
» @lchval

Depending on your family's dynamic, "Fences" could be either a great or a terrible movie to see during the holidays. Is there unbearable tension between Dad and one of his off-spring? Unless it's the kind of tension that can be resolved with a post-movie chat and a hug, maybe skip

seeing this one with people related to you.

### What happens?

In 1950s Pittsburgh, Troy Maxson (Denzel Washington) works as a garbage man to provide for his family. He's a man governed by responsibility, committed to duty before love, and bitter about the hardships life dealt him. Bearing the brunt of his black-and-white outlook is his wife, Rose (Viola Davis), and younger son, Cory (Jovan Adepo). As Troy struggles to accept the man he has become, he doesn't seem to realize his actions are negatively affecting those he loves most.

### What's good?

Unsurprisingly, the cast is magnificent. Every major character, with the exception of Adepo, reprises their role from a 2010 Broadway revival of August Wilson's 1983 play, on which the film is based. Wilson penned the screenplay before he died in 2005, and all of the actors inhabit their characters like extensions of themselves. Davis is particularly forceful; her performance hits like a slap across the face. Washington gives a gifted delivery of Wilson's lyrical dialogue, and as director, he clearly takes care to preserve the original themes and feel of the play. It's hard to capture the intricate messiness of family, but "Fences" proves up to the task.

### What's bad?

As admirable as Washington's dedication to his source material is, it's hard to deny that "Fences" still feels like a play. Long swaths of dialogue, while impeccably delivered, go on forever. Certain beats that would be at home on the stage come on too strong for film. The jump from play to movie certainly adds intimacy, but "Fences" misses an opportunity to do more.

### Final verdict

A profound and beautifully acted story that needed to adapt a little more to truly become an adaptation.



“**EVERY CHARACTER IN THIS STORY LOVES EACH OTHER AND CONSEQUENTLY IS CAPABLE OF DEVASTATING THE OTHER.**”  
—Stephen Henderson, about "Fences"





# Feelin' it

## WonFun brings mouth-tingling Sichuan cuisine and punk-rock feels to the West Loop

By Michael Nigrant | FOR REDEYE

Sometimes when I dine out, a song pops into my head that perfectly describes the experience. In the case of WonFun—the new West Loop Sichuan Chinese spot from Bar Marta vets Austin Baker and executive chef Ben Ruiz—that song is “Last Nite” by The Strokes. The song is about a breakup, but that’s not to say that WonFun is a great place to drop your sweetheart. I generally get hooked by melodies and rarely listen to lyrics. Julian Casablancas growls like a mumbling drunk, and a jangly guitar riff inspires me to head to the nearest darkest bar, put White Stripes on the jukebox, do shots of whiskey and dance until I fall over. Which is funny because I don’t dance. But “Last Nite” is the kind of song that makes you feel like you’re in the right place no matter where you are, the kind of song that makes you want to do stuff you don’t usually do. Stuff you might have to explain to a lawyer the next day. WonFun inspires the same wanton abandon.

### Punk-rock Chinese

It all starts with the restaurant’s vibe. Located in the old J.P. Graziano grocery warehouse, a beckoning red neon sign above the door reads “Chinese Food.” The doors you enter through were found inside the warehouse drywall during demolition and were repurposed for the entryway. Once inside, you can pop up the stairs to 2Fun, a karaoke and dim sum bar featuring a 60-foot paper dragon sculpture imported from China, or you can turn right and find yourself in WonFun, a palace filled with blood-red and black lacquer tones. There’s a half pagoda built over the kitchen, and 280 Chinese globe lanterns hang from the ceiling. The dark worn wooden floorboards are the original Graziano warehouse floors. WonFun feels like a clandestine back-alley opium den or the kind of place where you might procure a Mogwai (“Gremlins” reference). The massive booths feel like private dining areas, and once in, you’ll see nary another patron. The speakers hum with garage rock.

Unlike Imperial Lamian, an Architectural Digest deconstruction of Chinese decor, and Duck Duck Goat, which feels like an Indiana Jones movie set, WonFun has an underground punk-rock feel. It’s the kind of place I imagine hungry shaggy-haired rockers from New York (the kind who inhabited CBGB back in the day) would love to hit up after a show. There’s a history of certain Chinese restaurants being centers of celebrity and cultural movements in major cities, such as Mr Chow in Los Angeles and New York and Davé in Paris during Fashion Week. I don’t know that Chicago has such a place, but I can see WonFun filling the void.

### REVIEW

#### WonFun

905 W. Randolph St.  
312-877-5967



Take it or leave it

### Daquiris and Dakine

Reportedly, models and rockers don’t eat much, so let’s start with the booze. The beer list is solidly craft, featuring Four Hands Brewing Co. Dakine tropical IPA (\$7) as a standout option when I was there. The hazy golden beer wafts pineapple and orange notes that salve the burning chili-filled cuisine to

**RATINGS KEY** ★★★★★ DEAD UPON ARRIVAL ★★★★★ PROCEED WITH CAUTION ★★★★★ GIVE IT SOME TIME  
★★★★★ TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT ★★★★★ OFF TO A GOOD START ★★★★★ HEATING UP ★★★★★ ALREADY HOT



come. On behalf of poor artists everywhere, I appreciate that Miller High Life, aka the Champagne of Beers and my favorite lager, clocks in at \$3 a bottle. I'm sort of mystified that Lucky Buddha, another cheap lager, goes for \$9 a bottle, so I asked Baker what's up. "I don't really want to sell it," he laughed. "But I have it because I really love the bottle design." (The bottle is shaped like a fat glassy green Buddha.) There's also a strawberry daiquiri (\$12) brimming with rum, pisco, lime and real strawberries. My friends made fun of me when I ordered it, but once they took a sip of the tangy, floral and sweet elixir, and their minds and palates were filled with visions of the Caribbean, they were jealous.

## Spice of life

Chef Ruiz has long been a student of Chinese cuisine, having backpacked through China and returned later for a 10-day guided tour with Baker, where they tried up to 12 restaurants a day and took cooking classes.

"I've been obsessed with Chinese cuisine and the regional variations," Ruiz said. "It reminds me so much of homestyle Mexican cooking, and I fell in love with it and have always wanted to do this."

Ruiz is a good study. Dry chili prawns (\$13.99) are fried with their heads and shells on and coated in chilis that don't blow your palate, but instead, numb your lips and exude a tingly buzzy chili high. The shells crackle like potato chips, and the flesh is briny and sweet. "People aren't really familiar with this kind of burn," Ruiz said. "People sitting at the kitchen table have been saying, 'Am I having an allergic reaction, or what's happening to my mouth?' When I tell them about how the Sichuan peppercorns produce this numbing sensation called 'ma la,' they dig it and want more."

And if you want more, Chongqing fried chicken (\$16.99) will fit the bill with a shatteringly crispy crust spiked with sugar, chili heat and dried mushroom crystals (these provide a satisfying mouth-coating MSG-like effect without actual MSG). The interior flesh is juicy, and there's a fermented chili-infused aioli for dipping.

If spice isn't your thing, foie gras fried rice (\$24.99) is pretty tame. The rice is toothsome, and the distinct grains are punctuated by scallion and silky slivers of roast duck. I figured the thing would be spiked with tiny foie bits, but you get a generous 4 ounces of seared cubes that pop with luxurious buttery fat in every bite. Biang biang mien (\$17.99) isn't the title of a new James Bond flick, but instead boasts chewy soul-satisfying pappardelle-like noodles tossed with luscious cumin-dusted, Illinois-raised lamb shoulder, slivered Fresno chilies and rich lamb jus. The chilies make your nose run, but they're not so hot you're demanding a carafe of water to put out the burn. The menu's crowning achievement is Sichuan pork wontons (\$9.99),



2Fun



Strawberry daiquiri



Foie gras fried rice

pillowy dumplings that spurt with rich pork broth and fragrant house-seasoned soy sauce. Juices dribbled down my chin with each bite.

There are a few misses. The Mouthwatering Rabbit (\$11.99) needed more salt and acid and didn't produce any of its promised anticipatory drool. Garlic-sesame cucumbers (\$7.99) needed more of a vinegar punch to cool and cut through the fiery spices of other dishes. Ginger bok choy (\$9.99) was a little oversteamed and could also use a touch more salt.

There's only one dessert on offer (\$12),

shaved green tea ice rimmed with gummies, tapiocas and fresh strawberries served in a glass clamshell. The shaved ice looked unappetizing, like fuzzy shaved turkey, and the interplay of gummies and creamy ice tasted like a child's poor choices at Forever Yogurt. Complimentary fortune cookies follow with the bill. Mine suggested I will soon make a serious sum of money. If you play that game where you append a fortune with the phrase "in bed," I might be changing careers to pursue life as a gigolo.

## Bottom line

WonFun is the punk-rock Chinese food lair you didn't know you needed. A night here will be filled with revelry, great beer, killer noodles, garage rock and a treasure chest of killer dumplings. Just do yourself a favor: Skip the dessert and drink a strawberry daiquiri instead.

MICHAEL NAGRANT IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR. REPORTERS VISIT RESTAURANTS UNANNOUNCED, AND MEALS ARE PAID FOR BY REDEYE.





# shows

## set the scene

### 7 CHICAGO SHOWS TO SEE THIS WEEK

**By Gwendolyn Purdom** | FOR REDEYE

Step away from the Netflix marathon and find your way into one of these local theaters for a belly laugh this week. Your guide to Chicago's affordable and under-the-radar comedy scene awaits. **GWENDOLYN PURDOM IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR.**

#### THURSDAY

##### **Julian McCullough**

**Zanies**  
1548 N. Wells St. 312-337-4027

The host of TBS' "Very Funny News" and "Guy Code" cast member headlines this stand-up set downtown before heading to the 'burbs for weekend shows in Rosemont and St. Charles. 8:30 p.m. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. \$25 plus a two-item food or drink minimum. Tickets: [zanies.com/chicago](http://zanies.com/chicago)

#### FRIDAY

##### **The Del Close Giveathon Finale Show**

**The iO Theater**  
1501 N. Kingsbury St. 312-929-2401

After teaming up with several other local comedy clubs to raise money for organizations such as Planned Parenthood, Deborah's Place and Sarah's Circle as part of the third annual Chicago Comedy Donation Drive, iO hosts the event's finale celebration, complete with

improv performances and "some extra special surprises." 10:30 p.m. \$10. Tickets: [ioimprov.com](http://ioimprov.com)

##### **Trash Boy: The Musical**

**The Annoyance Theatre & Bar**  
851 W. Belmont Ave. 773-697-9693

Previews open for this "heartfelt" musical about, you guessed it, a bag of trash. 8 p.m. \$10. Tickets: [theannoyance.com](http://theannoyance.com)

##### **Ronnie Ray Live Album Recording**

**The WIP Theater**  
6670 N. Northwest Highway 312-692-9327

Writer and comic Ronnie Ray will be laying down tracks for his upcoming live album with two Friday night shows. 8 and 10 p.m. \$15. Tickets: [thewiptheater.com](http://thewiptheater.com)

#### SATURDAY

##### **New Year's Eve Comedy Jam**

**Arie Crown Theater at McCormick Place**  
2301 S. Lake Shore Drive 312-791-6190

"Real Housewives" star **NeNe Leaks** and WGCI's Leon Rogers host this New Year's Eve bash featuring Deon Cole, Lil Duval and Michael Blackson. 7 p.m. \$59 and up. Tickets: [wgci.ihheart.com](http://wgci.ihheart.com)

##### **New Year's Eve Hullabaloo**

**Uptown Underground**  
4707 N. Broadway 773-867-1946

Guests are encouraged to bust out their finest 1920s to 1940s attire to celebrate the new year with The Kiss Kiss Cabaret, Chicago Magic Lounge, Muffy Fishbasket & Friends and other acts, plus an hourlong complimentary cocktail reception, full cash bar, retro photo booth, noisemakers and a champagne toast at midnight. 9 p.m. \$100-\$125. Tickets: [uptownunderground.tix.com](http://uptownunderground.tix.com)

#### TUESDAY

##### **50 First Jokes**

**@North Bar**  
1637 W. North Ave. 773-697-3563

Fifty comedians band together to get the new year off to a funny start by telling the first joke they've written for 2017. The fast-paced show, which will have iterations in 10 different cities across the country next week, makes its Chicago debut this year after getting its start in New York City in 2007. 8 p.m. \$10. Tickets: [liveatnorthbar.com](http://liveatnorthbar.com)

## show up

### 4 MUST-SEE CONCERTS

**By Josh Terry** | FOR REDEYE

Now that Christmas has come and gone, the next big holiday is New Year's Eve. Fortunately, in Chicago at least, New Year's Eve is synonymous with dancing your butt off at a really good show. This year is no different as you can ring in 2017 with these awesome shows (including a shameless plea for y'all to come to my NYE party).

#### FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

##### **Diane Coffee, Modern Vices (Friday), Yoko and the Oh No's (Saturday), The Voluptuals (Saturday)**

**Schubas**  
3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508

Diane Coffee is an excellent vintage-hued psychedelic rock band fronted by Shaun Fleming, the former live drummer for Foxygen. The band's tunes are self-consciously throwback, soaking up all the sunshine from the '60s and '70s, but they still stand out now, especially on their 2015 album "Everybody's A Good Dog." Another draw is sets by local openers Modern Vices and Yoko and the Oh No's, who have been really honing their live sound recently. Tickets: [lh-st.com](http://lh-st.com)

#### SATURDAY

##### **The Hood Internet, Air Credits, Celine Neon**

**Lincoln Hall**  
2424 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-525-2501

We've covered every act on this bill, from The Hood Internet's incredible mash-up of "Go Cubs Go" with Chance the Rapper's "No Problem" and their ShowYouSuck collaboration Air Credits to Celine Neon's progressive and fun pop. There's a lot to love about this show, and if I wasn't hosting my own thing (see below), I'd be spending New Year's Eve at Lincoln Hall. Tickets: [lh-st.com](http://lh-st.com)

#### \*\*\*BONUS\*\*\* SATURDAY

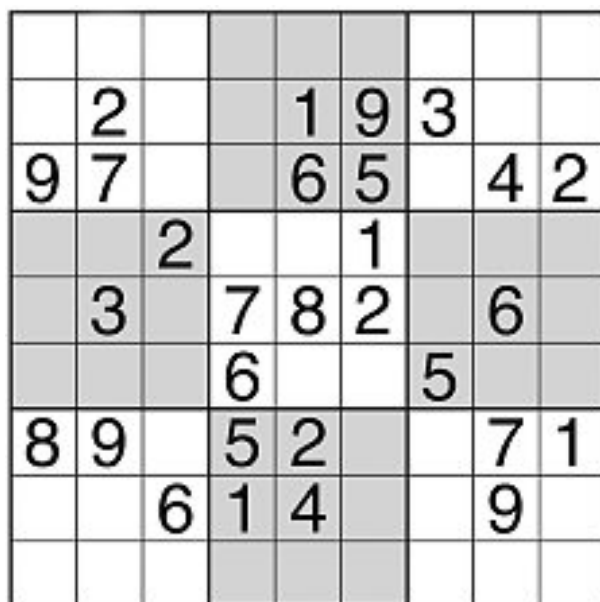
##### **New Year's Free featuring DJ sets by members of Whitney, Twin Peaks, NE-HI, Homme and more**

**GMan Tavern**  
3740 N. Clark St. 773-549-2050

Though technically not a show, this New Year's Eve event at GMan Tavern will be a fun party. Hosted by some jamoke from the RedEye (aka yours truly), this event features our four favorite Chicago bands spinning tunes from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. It's totally free unless you feel like making a contribution benefiting the Lakeview Pantry. And no, I'm not going to tell you who the special guests are, and no, if you're under 21, I can't get you in. It's a bar. Go watch cartoons and drink apple juice or something instead.

Want to see your show in Set the Scene? Us too! Send details to Morgan Olsen at [mcolsen@redeyechicago.com](mailto:mcolsen@redeyechicago.com) for consideration.





DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



## WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

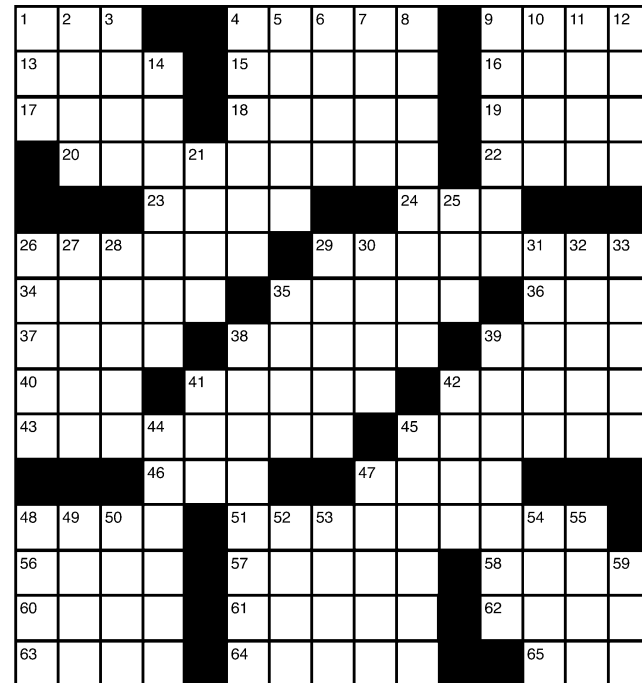
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## ACROSS

- 1 Dyer's tub  
4 Played a flute  
9 Couch  
13 Was obligated to pay  
15 "of Two Cities"  
16 Mimicked  
17 away; erode  
18 Home run hitter Roger ...  
19 Loan  
20 "in Seattle"; Tom  
Hanks film  
22 Most common  
conjunctions  
23 Kill  
24 Common street name  
26 Beverage holders for  
large pockets  
29 Not crooked  
34 Earns the booby prize  
35 Injections  
36 Garden tool  
37 Fumbler's word  
38 Pesky insects  
39 May honoree  
40 Utilize  
41 Identical  
42 More rational  
43 Persistence  
45 Reimburses  
46 Ruby or garnet  
47 Cleansing bar  
48 Weathercock  
51 Advertising  
56 Press clothes  
57 Malt shop orders  
58 Have to have  
60 Aberdeen native  
61 Vote into office  
62 Plane rider's departure  
point  
63 Invites  
64 Classroom furniture  
65 Galloped

## DOWN

- 1 Solemn oath  
2 Astounds  
3 Small duck  
4 Prairies of South  
America  
5 Milan's nation  
6 Scrape off apple skins  
7 Whitney and Wallach  
8 Cakes & pies  
9 Cured sausage  
10 \_-eyed; alert



- 11 off; repel  
12 Finds a sum  
14 Puts clothes on  
21 Antlered critters  
25 \_ Cruces, NM  
26 \_ the law; break rules  
27 Not tight  
28 Colorado resort  
29 Trembling  
30 Carryall  
31 African nation  
32 Like a comfy place to  
stay  
33 In \_; crying  
35 In a \_; pouty  
38 Peeked at  
39 \_ out; charting one's  
route  
41 Highest club  
42 Chair or bench  
44 Real estate \_; home buy-  
ers' consultants  
45 Perches  
47 Noisy kiss  
48 Passport stamp  
49 Circle portions  
50 Wall recess  
52 Actor's part  
53 Some of the works of  
Keats  
54 Not far away  
55 "\_\_\_ grip!"; cry to the  
hysterical  
Lion's lair

## TODAY IN THE YEAR ...

**1890:** The Wounded Knee massacre took place in South Dakota. As many as 300 Sioux Indians were killed by U.S. troops sent to disarm them.

**1940:** During World War II, Germany dropped incendiary bombs on London, setting off what came to be known as "The Second Great Fire of London."

**1975:** A bomb exploded in the main terminal of New York's LaGuardia Airport, killing 11 people. It's never been determined who was responsible.

# horoscopes

TAROT.COM

**Capricorn** Dec. 22–Jan. 19

Although Mercury is still retrograde in your sign, this week he'll help you work to resolve any situation with your partner that requires closure or agreement. After Thursday, a New Moon in your sign will signal a personal fresh start. You will be able to declare to your lover, and to the universe, what changes you want to happen in order to live your best life—even if it makes your partner uncomfortable.

**Aquarius** Jan. 20–Feb. 18

Don't hold back this week when it comes to communicating with your sweetheart. Although Mercury is retrograde, there is every indication that you and your love will have a breakthrough in your relationship if you're able to discuss the precise areas you both try so hard to sweep under the rug. In fact, if you are going through a rough patch and are in couple's counseling, you will make real progress now. Wonderful!

**Pisces** Feb. 19–March 20

If you are frustrated with your social life these days, take heart, because a change is coming. You might feel as if none of your friends are on the same page as you anymore, or that your free time is filled with

more business activities than pleasure. If so, it's time to make an adjustment. After Thursday, a New Moon in your 11th House of Friendships will help you meet interesting people. If you're looking for a romantic relationship, it's quite possible you'll find someone through your new network.

**Aries** March 21–April 19

An unexpected development is likely in your love life. You might throw a major curveball into your relationship dynamic by demanding a sudden change. This might be an ultimatum for a commitment, but it can just as easily be a shift in perspective to help spice things up between you.

**Taurus** April 20–May 20

You might receive an unexpected flirty signal from someone you work with. This person may or may not pique your interest, but you'll certainly feel flattered. However, you will have plenty of sexy fantasies that could involve a friend or casual acquaintance. This will be a perfect time to let one of your pals know that you have a crush on him or her. If you are already in a relationship, you and your sweetheart will enjoy social fun with other couples.

**Gemini** May 21–June 20

Even though you and your partner are working through some disagreements or miscommunication regarding finances, this week there appears to be a lucky break. After Thursday, it's possible that you'll both agree on a new plan of action that you can comfortably implement together.

**Cancer** June 21–July 22

A development in your love life is possible this week. You and your mate will find a new dimension to explore that will bring you closer together. Before you do this, you'll first need to discuss whatever it is you're both going out of your way most to avoid. Once you get past this pain point, you'll realize that it wasn't so bad after all. In fact, you'll feel closer than ever.

**Leo** July 23–Aug. 22

Very often, love takes us along the most unexpected path. In fact, the twists and turns that led you to your lover's arms are certainly something to marvel at. This week, you and your sweetheart might choose to spice up the spiritual dimension of your relationship in order to explore the possibility of an even more exciting journey. Although you might not necessarily feel bored in your relationship, you're ready to expand your horizons. Together.

**Virgo** Aug. 23–Sept. 22

Although Mercury is now retrograde in your true love sector, it doesn't mean

your love life will turn into a disaster. In fact, there are supportive links this week to Mercury from several other planets, suggesting that you and your sweetie can make real progress sorting out any miscommunication. If you are single, then pay attention to events that unfold after Thursday. Something magical is possible.

**Libra** Sept. 23–Oct. 22

You and your partner are in for a surprise this week. Jupiter, the planet of abundance, is currently moving through your sign, blessing you in many ways—particularly with relationships. Are you ready?

**Scorpio** Oct. 23–Nov. 21

With Mars moving through your true love sector, your romantic life has definitely gotten spicier. In fact, you might be enjoying greater quality—and quantity—in your sex life. This week, that trend continues. On Sunday, you and your lover will decide that making each other's fantasies come true is high priority. Neither one of you will be disappointed.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 22–Dec. 21

Your love life will be anything but boring this week. You might suddenly discover that one of your pals is more into you than you ever imagined. Another possibility is that your sweetheart will meet up with your circle of friends for the first time this week, and everyone will hit it off. You'll be thrilled that all of the people in your life get along so well!



# red hot

AP AND GETTY IMAGES

## THE QUOTE

“Things like {this} happen all the time and are the kinds of moments that contribute to women’s sense of fear and inadequacy. I am not a piece of meat that a man gets to utilize for his pleasure. I’m an adult human being in a relationship with a man who treats me with love and respect.”

—Singer **Ariana Grande**, on Twitter, after an incident of fan harassment Tuesday night. She wrote that a young fan of her boyfriend, rapper Mac Miller, followed them to their car and said to Miller, “Ariana is sexy as hell ... I see you hitting that!!!” She went on to say that it “hurts” her heart to see young people “using these phrases and objectifying women with such ease.” As of Wednesday afternoon, Miller had yet to comment on the incident.



## Child’s play

The rumored romance between **Jennifer Lopez and Drake** is now Instagram official after the same image of them snuggling was posted to both of their accounts. Place your bets on how long it’ll take hot AF JLo to shatter poor Drake’s little heart and inspire an entire album of “Views”-esque moping. Our money is on two weeks, tops. And the kicker? A source tells E! News that though the two are “not exclusive,” they are “seeing each other” and Drake is “really into her.” Did you two just meet on Tinder, or ... ?



## The return of Angela

According to Variety, Carrie Fisher will be appearing in two upcoming “Family Guy” episodes as the voice of Peter Griffin’s supervisor, Angela. Fisher originally appeared in the role in 2005 and has appeared in 20 episodes since, most recently on Dec. 4, a little more than three weeks before her death on Tuesday. IRL Peter Griffin, Seth MacFarlane, tweeted on Tuesday, “Carrie Fisher was smart, funny, talented, surprising, and always a hell of a fun time to be around. Family Guy will miss her immensely.” We’ll all miss her immensely, Seth.

## Super split

“Supergirl’s” **Melissa Benoist** has filed for divorce from actor Blake Jenner, according to E! News. The two met while filming a few episodes of teenage rom-com-dram “Glee” before Benoist nabbed the “Supergirl” gig on The CW, where Jenner also occasionally guest-starred. The two were married for nearly two years before the split. If your relationship started on the dumpster fire that was “Glee,” though, would you really expect it to work out?



## THE DIGIT

# \$125 million

That’s how much the late George Michael’s estate is estimated to be worth, according to People. The legend sold more than 100 million albums worldwide during his career before his death on Christmas Day at age 53. Less than 24 hours after his passing, his solo discography saw a 3,158 percent increase on Spotify globally, leading entertainment attorney Donald David to estimate that his estate will increase anywhere from \$7 million to \$10 million in the next two years, Entertainment Weekly reported.

WANT MORE DIRT?

Oh, we’ve got dirt. Get the scoop on your favorite musicians, actors and reality TVers all day long at [redeyechicago.com](http://redeyechicago.com).